

Press Release: ANA SEDS GRANT 2004/2007

As a result of the Menominee Tribal Legislature's recent effort to design a comprehensive strategic plan, with the assistance of the College of Menominee Nation, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin has been awarded a three-year grant from the Administration of Native Americans (ANA) a division of The Department of Health & Human Services in the amount of \$524,050. ANA promotes self-sufficiency for Native Americans by providing social and economic development opportunities through financial assistance, training, and technical assistance to eligible Tribes and Native American organizations. The Tribe will utilize this project to focus upon developing a broadly inclusive and multidimensional comprehensive strategic plan. Such a plan will guide the efforts and activities to provide a clear road map for the process by which the Tribe can measure critical milestones in achieving its vision.

Until the recent partnership between the Menominee Tribal Legislature and the College of Menominee Nation, past planning efforts conducted for the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin have been both incremental in nature and unrelated to the long term and comprehensive strategic plan required by such a wide ranging organization. Never before has there been a strategic plan created that could be referenced for future planning.

Beginning in the summer of 2003 Menominee Tribal Legislator's (MTL) attended a series of planning sessions at the College of Menominee Nation, which continued into 2004. During these sessions, the MTL developed the foundation for a comprehensive plan. Also during this process the MTL realized that the full development of a strategic plan must include key partners. Key partners were identified as the Menominee Tribal Legislative Officers, Management Team, Administrative Service Officers, Directors, Legislative Committees, Tribal Program Staff, and the General Council. These key partners will have a crucial role in the development of a long-range strategic plan that will assist MTL in providing direction to the administrative structure by defining responsibilities and allocating resources appropriately. The ultimate beneficiaries will be Menominee Tribal members.

The first task of the project is the distribution of a "Community Survey." The survey will be distributed randomly by mail to 20% of the tribal membership in late March or early April 2005. If you are to receive a survey, please remember your input is vital to the future planning of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin. Every voice counts! This is your plan, so please make every effort to complete the survey and return it as soon as possible. A final report of the findings should be available by late spring of 2005.

Throughout the strategic planning process, there will be quarterly community meetings held to update members on activities. Members can also attend legislative committee meetings and the bi-monthly Legislature meetings to receive updates on current strategic planning activities. A Strategic Planning Coordinator, Brenda L. Tomow, MBA-H has been contracted for the life of the grant and is responsible for

scheduling, assuring staff attendance, monitoring and documenting all of the events as well as reporting activities to the community.